



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 4, 2005

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**STATE HONORS THREE OUTSTANDING CITIZEN FORESTERS AND  
GRADUATES 35 MASSACHUSETTS TREE STEWARDS**

PETERSHAM – Today, at the annual Massachusetts Tree Steward Training, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's (DCR) Urban and Community Forestry Program honored Mary Ann Wordell, John Frey, and Robert Presutti as Outstanding Citizen Foresters for their volunteer service, and dedication to urban and community forestry in the Commonwealth.

Mary Ann Wordell, of the Fall River Street Tree Planting Program, was honored for her tireless work to improve the condition and management of the city's urban and community forest. Following Ms. Wordell's leadership, citizens of Fall River have embraced the city's trees as a vital part of the municipal infrastructure, and critical to the community's health. Wordell has been instrumental in organizing everything from volunteer tree planting projects to formal volunteer training programs and Arbor Day celebrations. With her guidance, the city has progressed significantly towards becoming one of the state's highest performing communities for urban forest management as tracked by DCR. Jane Calvin of the DCR Urban and Community Forestry Program said of Mary Ann in her nomination, "Her determination has attracted a strong corps of volunteers who are constantly at her side, helping the city move toward Mary Ann's vision of a well managed, greener urban forest in Fall River."

John Frey was honored for his years of service to the Lexington Tree Committee including his present service as Chairman. John has consistently and generously shared his knowledge of landscape architecture and of trees with the Town of Lexington. The present Lexington Tree Committee, functioning since 2001, has its origin in Frey's work with the Lexington Field and Garden Club starting in 1990. His participation in the Ad-Hoc Tree Advisory Committee since 1992 resulted first in the regularization of tree planting on historic Lexington Green, and later helped Lexington establish a Tree By-Law and the town Tree Committee. Through his membership on the Bicycle Committee he continues to work to improve the tree-shaded bike path through the town. Frey has served on the Design Advisory Committee for at least ten years, and always keeps the welfare of Lexington's trees in mind. "John designed innumerable projects for Lexington, including the widened sidewalk lined with a double row of lindens in Lexington Center, which has become the meeting point for thousands of Lexington citizens and the envy of many towns around," said Karen Longeteig of the Lexington Tree Committee in her nomination of Mr. Frey.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS · EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Stephen R. Pritchard, Secretary  
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Stephen H. Burrington, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation & Recreation

Robert Presutti of the Lanesborough Tree Committee was honored for his service to the Committee; the Vincent J. Hebert Arboretum in Pittsfield where he is a member of the Board of Directors; and both Pittsfield and Lanesborough in general. Presutti is known throughout both communities for giving unstintingly of his time and money to benefit community trees and forests. The unanimous opinion of those that work with him is that while others rhapsodize and theorize, he is pruning, trimming, watering and mulching. Bob Presutti is recognized as an unselfishly dedicated steward of the community trees and forests in Pittsfield and Lanesborough. In his nomination of Mr. Presutti, Jim McGrath, Director of Community Services for the City of Pittsfield said, "Bob has provided support, encouragement, and education to numerous fledgling environmental groups in Berkshire County, including our Tree Committee. He actively supports the Elm Watch Program, and is presently acting as an advisor to the Pittsfield Tree Watch Organization and to Pittsfield Beautiful."

During the two-day Massachusetts Tree Steward workshop, 35 committed citizens and public officials received training in urban and community forestry issues to help them become better stewards of community forests. They received training in tree identification and assessment, tree physiology, urban forest management, and legal issues, among other topics.

"There is a remarkable network of both volunteers and professionals working to improve Massachusetts' urban forests," said James DiMaio, DCR Chief Forester. "Graduates of the Tree Steward Training Program hail from across the Commonwealth, from the Berkshires to the South Shore. These 'Tree Stewards' bring the knowledge and experience they gain back to their communities where they put it to use on community tree committees, town boards, or as Tree Wardens. We are proud of what they have achieved, and we look forward to supporting and honoring them in their future work."

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